Menace of big cats in Pauri Garhwal

3694. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2146 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 1997 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three persons were killed by 'big cats' under Rikhnikhal Block in three villages, namely Dalmota, Simalsain and Majkhola, as reported in the "Indian Express" dated 15th February, 1997; and

(b) if so, the reasons for variation in the figures?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal of Making Forests Under Buxar Tiger Reserve into National Park

3695. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to make the 117.10 sq. km. forests comprising Tialigaon, North and South Rajabhatkhawa, Jainti, Panbari and chokks forests under Buxar Tiger Reserve into a National Park;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and cost thereof; and

(c) the estimated number of tigers and other big cats in this Reserve at present and the comparative wildlife population there as per last census?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to declare reserve forest areas of Tashigaon, North and South Rajabhatkhawa, Jainti, Panbari and Chacko blocks, which are already a part of sanctuary, into a National Park.

(b) No cost is involved in the proposal since it is only a change in legal status of these forests under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) As per the information provided by the State Government, a statement is enclosed. (*See* Below) However, ± 10% variation in the estimated population is always possible since track census is done for the other wild species.

Statement

Estimated Number of Tigers and Other Big Cats and Comparative Wildlife Population in Buxa Tiger Reserve

S.No.	Name of the species	1989	1993	1994	1995	1996
1.	Tiger	33	29	—	31	—
2.	Leopards	—	63	—	70	—
3.	Elephants	—	85	86	—	—
4.	Gaur	—	—	192	335	360
5.	Barking Deer	—	—	978	955	1000
6.	Hog Deer	—	—	157	120	200
7.	Spotted Deer	—	—	498	515	575
8.	Sambhar	—	—	108	80	100
9.	Mangoose	—	—	142	320	350
10.	Porcupine	—	—	14	35	50
11.	Wild Boar	—	—	2719	2700	3000
12.	Monkeys	—	—	12581	22250	24000
13.	Peacocks	—	—	1975	2600	2800
14.	Jungle Fowls	—	—	2056	5650	6000